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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD
A FLORA OF NEVADA. NO. 24.

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AIZOACEAE OF NEVADA

by

F. R. FOSBERG

January 24, 1941.

Issued by

The Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction,
Bureau of Plant Industry,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

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Work Projects Administration of Nevada,
Projects, O. P. 65-2-04-13, W. P. 658;
O. P. 165-2-04-21, W. P. 752.

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Collaborator

University of Nevada.

Address all queries concerning this publication to the Division
of Plant Exploration and Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry,
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COMMITTEE REPORT

J. EDGAR HOOVER, CHAIRMAN

1941

REPORT TO THE

U. S. SENATE

ON THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

1941

The Committee on the Administration of the Department of Justice, created by the Senate on July 1, 1937, has the honor to submit herewith its report on the work of the Department of Justice during the year 1940.

The Department of Justice has during the year 1940 continued its efforts to improve the administration of the Department and to increase its efficiency.

Respectfully,
J. EDGAR HOOVER,
Attorney General.

Approved and Forwarded:
J. EDGAR HOOVER,
Attorney General.

This report was prepared by the Committee on the Administration of the Department of Justice, created by the Senate on July 1, 1937, and is submitted to the Senate for its consideration.

AIZOACEAE OF NEVADA

By F. R. Fosberg

Herbs or rarely small shrubs, often fleshy; leaves opposite to whorled or alternate, simple, stipulate or (in ours) not; flowers perfect, regular, with 4-5 lobed calyx, petals many to (in ours) none, stamens few to many, ovary superior or inferior, usually several celled, with as many free or slightly united styles or stigmas as ovary cells; fruit capsular, nutlike, or drupaceous, with 2 to many seeds.

The two Nevada genera may be separated as follows:

- Plants coarse, succulent, leaves opposite, flowers on very short thick pedicels, capsule circumscissile, calyx not divided to base - - - - - 1. Sesuvium.
- Plants slender, not succulent, leaves whorled, flowers on long very slender pedicels, capsule loculicidal, 3-valved, calyx divided to base - - - - - 2. Mollugo.

1. SESUVIUM L.

SESUVIUM L, Syst. ed. 10: 1053. 1759.

Prostrate, succulent herbs with opposite leaves, axillary flowers with 5 somewhat petaloid imbricate sepals on a broadly turbinate receptacle, no petals, 5-many perigynous stamens, superior 2-5 celled ovary with axile placentation and separate

styles; fruit circumscissile; seeds numerous, black enclosed in a semicoherent silvery film, strongly curved, with a conical projection below the prominent hilum.

One species in Nevada.

1. *SESUVIUM VERRUCOSUM* Raf. New Fl. 4: 16. 1838.

Branches spreading, sometimes ascending at tips; leaves fleshy, spatulate, narrowed to the expanded and sheathing base; flowers on very short pedicels in leaf axils, usually on short, often zig-zag, branchlets, or on younger plants in main axils, pinkish within, 7-8 mm. long, calyx lobes acute or acuminate, margins hyaline, stamens numerous, irregularly coherent at bases into bundles, ovary usually 3-4 celled; septa in fruit very thin and fragile, lower part of capsule membranous; seeds flattish, about 1 mm. across.

Found in alkaline, usually damp or desiccating places such as lake and pond margins. This species has been mistakenly called *S. sessile* Pers. by most western authors. The latter name is a synonym of the pantropic *S. portulacastrum* L.

Nevada: Washoe, Humboldt (?), Churchill, Mineral, Lincoln, and Clark (?) Counties. Several of the records of this species are uncertain because of the ambiguity of the information on the original labels. The species is likely much more widespread in the state than the few available collections would indicate.

light; this is characteristic of the species. The color of the
underside of the wings is also characteristic. The color of the
underside of the wings is also characteristic.

The species is known.

1. *Phaenocarpa* (1892) No. 11, 12, 13.

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2. MOLLUGO L.

MOLLUGO L. Gen. Pl. ed. 5: 39. 1754.

Slender annual or perennial herbs with the aspect of Caryophyllaceae, not especially fleshy, leaves opposite or whorled; calyx of separate imbricate sepals; petals none; stamens 3-10; ovary superior, 3-5 celled, styles as many as cells, ovules many; capsule loculicidal; seeds numerous, small, curved.

A weedy tropical genus with one species introduced into Nevada.

1. MOLLUGO VERTICILLATA L. Sp. Pl. 89. 1753.

A slender prostrate annual with spreading stems; leaves linear-oblongate or narrowly spatulate, in whorls of about 5 or 6; flowers also in whorls at most nodes, on slender pedicels 1-1.5 cm. long; sepals 5, elliptic or oblong to obovate, blunt, with scarious margins; stamens usually 3; capsule oblong, partly exserted, about 3 mm. long, thin-walled, with the seeds showing through when dry, styles persistent; seeds bright chestnut brown, glossy, 0.7 mm. long, asymmetrically curved, with a series of prominent concentric ridges on the back and outer portion of the sides.

The carpet-weed, found in disturbed or cultivated ground, forming loose mats which may, in good situations, reach over 0.5 m. in diameter, flowering from the very first, and maturing fruit continuously.

Nevada: known to me at present, only from Washoe County.

